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COUNTRY Uruguay/Bolivia

23 OCT 51 DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Arrest of Members of Uruguayan Film Expedition

in Bolivia

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PLACE 25X1A ACQUIRED

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

- 1. A Uruguayan film expedition, representing the Compania Universal Filmica Exhibiciones (CUFE) of Montevideo, Uruguay, entered Bolivia from Corumba, Brazil, in June 1951, and its seven members were arrested by Bolivian authorities in late August 1951 at San Ignacio de Velasco, Bolivia. A Captain Buxton, whose real name is Jose Segundo do Lazo Toledo, was the leader of the group, which included Felix Domingues Marget Candela, Wilfredo Bonilla Protta, Alberto Casas Calzada, Juan Jose Sonora, Jorge Mario Martinez, and Mario Ismael Cordonado.
- The ostensible reason for their arrest was that they had been passed through Bolivian customs without inspection, at the insistence of the Uruguayan Convol at Corumba, Brazil, Jose Alberto du Olarte. A secret search of their luggije by the Bolivian police had disclosed Communist propaganda and films portraing the miserable living conditions of the Indians in Bolivia. Letters were also found which provided evidence that the purpose of their film expedition was to picture Bolivian life for Communist propaganda purposes. Evidence was also found that they were to map the area for possible use by Brazilian Communits in the event of war.
- The search of the expedition's baggage revealed that its members had been detained by the Brazilian Security Police at Porto Uniao, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil, on 12 June 1951.
- 25X1X 4. Uruguay has reported that there have been previous indications that the CUFE is impirectly supported by the Communists. Juan Jose Lopez Silveira, an official of CUFE, is a well-known member of the Craunist Party of Uruguay and also a director of Ediciones Pueblos Unidos (FJ), a Communist publishing house in Montevideo. Carlos Bayarres, a CUFE rumeraman and a Communist, was previously reported to have been assigned the dission of traveling to Paraguay to interview and obtain news-roel pictures of Obdulio Barthe, Paraguayan Communist leader. Bayarres failed in this as ignment because of interference by the Faraguayan police, and the local Jummuntst

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papers used this incident in their propaganda effort to "free Barthe" as evidence of the police state now existing in Paraguay. The president of CUFE, Fernando Sierra, is a charter member of the Instituto Cultural Uruguayo-Sovietico.

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